

NWD HH&C CoP Meeting Minutes
November 14 &15, 2007

1. Attendees:

NWD	Jim Barton	Brad Bird	Bob Buchholz	Larry Cieslik	Larry Murphy
NWK	Allen Tool	Mike Chapman	Bob Barkau	Steve Spaulding	Ken Stark
NWK (cont.)	Eric Shumate	Don Meier	Ed Parker		
NWO	John Remus	Dan Pridal			
NWP	Bruce Duffe	Kyle McCune	Pete Dickerson	Alan Donner	
NWS	Dan Katz				
NWW	Sean Milligan	Tracy Schwarz	Greg Teasdale		

2. Agenda:

Wednesday, November 14, 2007:

½ Day HH&C CoP Business Meeting

1. Introductions. (30 minutes)
2. Overview of CoP Purpose and activities over last year (15 min)– Bob
3. CoP Planning for 2008 (priorities, meeting schedules, etc) – (1 hour)
 - Regional Technical Forums
 - Conference Calls (discuss who participates)
 - Face to Face Meeting

Break – (20 min)

4. Water Management – Jim Barton/Larry Cieslik (45 min)
 - Reorg Status
 - Critical Gage Tasker
 - QMP status
5. HH&C Executive Advisory Committee Report(s) – Jim/Larry (15 min)
6. Workload Sharing/Workload Leveling Discussion (30 min)
7. Challenges/Opportunities in HH&C by office (30 min)
8. Discussion on Regional Technical 13's
9. NSPS- Lessons Learned and SMART Objectives.
10. Other

Lunch

½ Day Field Trip - Boat Trip along the Missouri River through the KC Reach including:

- MO River Degradation and Impacts
- KC Levee System
- MO River Shallow Water Habitat Work

Thursday, November 15, 2007:

1. Technical Presentations/Discussions

(Times are general guidelines to allow questions and discussions)

Time	Presenter	Office	Topic
0800 – 0830	Larry Murphy	NWD	HMS Forecasting and Decision Support Tool
0830 - 0900	Tracy Schwarz	NWW	Little Goose Dam Spillway Weir Evaluation with the Lower Snake River Dynamic Routing Model
0900 - 0930	Bob Barkau	NWK	Two-Dimensional Modeling of the Missouri River using UNET-2D
0930 - 0945	Break		
0945 - 1015	Brad Bird	NWP	The Dalles and John Day Tainter Valve Design
1015 - 1100	Gregg Teasdale	NWW	Channel Stability Assessment of the Snake River at Jackson Hole, WY
1100 - 1130	Alan Donner	NWP	Elk Creek Project, fish passage corridor
1130 - 1300	Lunch		
1300 - 1345	Sean Milligan	NWW	Strategies for Maintaining Streamflow for Fish
1345 - 1415	Kevin Stamm	NWO	Simulation of Fort Peck Lake Temperature Releases and Downstream Missouri River Temperatures
1415 - 1430	Break		
1430 - 1500	Steve Spaulding	NWK	Moveable Bed Micro-model of the Jameson Island Chute on the Missouri River
1500 - 1530	Ken Stark	NWK	Missouri River Bed Material Movement and Recovery in the Vicinity of Sand Dredge Pits

2. Follow up Business Meeting Items

3. Water Management Reorganization Team Conference Call (1600 - 1700)

3. **Business Meeting:**

- a. **Introduction** – Rex Goodnight, chief Engineering and Construction Division, Kansas City District provided the welcome and introductory comments.
- b. **Overview of CoP Purpose and activities over last year** - Bob Buchholz provided an overview of the HH & C CoP. Bob also introduced Brad Bird as the new HH&C CoP leader.
 - i. **Bi monthly meetings** – Meetings held with the H&H branch chiefs via teleconference every other month (odd months) on the 3rd Tuesday at 11 AM PST. The next scheduled meeting was the 20th of November, but was cancelled due to the proximity to this meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be January 15th at 11 AM PST.

ii. **Regional technical forums** Technical forums on projects of interest to the HH&C community. Presentations should rotate between offices. Currently presented at approximately 6 months intervals through net-meeting. The last technical forum was in June 2007. John Remus is responsible for the next RTF in January/February? Professional Development Hours (PDH's) can be provided for those attending these forums. It was suggested that perhaps we should have some formal communication on specific topics for the RTF's. Some examples that were given:

1. **Restoration**
2. **Climate Change**
3. **Water Management**
4. **Sand dredging/mining impacts; interaction w/regulatory**
5. **Water quality modeling – watershed sediment yields**
6. **Inundation mapping**
7. **Levee certification – FPMS, MIP for mapping**
8. **Sediment transport**
9. **Risk & Reliability – communication**
10. **Coastal**
11. **Fish passage**

iii. **Face-to-face meetings** – This meeting served as the most recent face-to-face meeting. The previous meeting was held at ERDC and New Orleans and was sponsored by NWW in February 2007. The next face to face should occur in the April/May timeframe in either Portland or Omaha. Another opportunity presents itself at infrastructure and other similar conferences to have a face-to-face meetings immediately prior or one evening during the conference. This was done in a less structured way at the last conference in 2007.

iv. **Other topics**

1. **Funding** – Are there other sources of funding for CoP meetings? (topic for Surya Bhamidipaty, Jerry Webb and Allen Chin). Potential proposal, writeup for Surya on what is gained through CoP to see if funds might be available. Ultimately send feedback to James Dalton.
2. **12 Actions for change** – Need to integrate our plan for the 12 actions for change in particular with communicating risk and using a systems/watershed approach. Also to incorporate climate change.
http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/releases/News_Release_-_USACE_12_Actions_for_Change.pdf

3. **ITR issue** – A major goal of this group is to work on improving quality by how we execute ITR's.
4. **Integration of others** – Possible to integrate NWS, USGS, BuRec, BPA, etc. into our CoP as occasional contributors.
5. **Continue to be involved with technical conferences** – Participate and share information from technical conferences.
6. **Technical Forum attendance** – Increase attendance? Ideas?
7. **Resources**
 - a. **Update Capabilities& Technical guide**
 - b. **Interface with other HH&C CoP's**
 - c. **Technical Expert Network** – <https://ten.usace.army.mil/techexnet.aspx>
 - d. **Use of Groove site**
 - e. **Sharing information from Executive Advisory committee to the HH&C CoP** – Larry Cieslik and Jim Barton NWD representatives (Brad Bird added by Jerry Webb in December)
4. **Water Management Update:** Jim Barton/Larry Cieslik
 - a. Reorg Status for Columbia Basin WM – Starting phase II. Currently shifting tech support and tributaries to Districts. Training and exercises will be ongoing until completion of transition in October 2008.
 - b. Critical Gage Tasker – Larry Murphy and Peter Brooks. Identifying where gages are and what is the backup and cost for backup. Due to Jerry Webb.
 - c. All requirements in ER/CMR indicator
 - d. QMP within districts – command staff visits. Utilize the Quality Assurance Board (QAB) to make ISO 9001 compliant. Another opportunity is to use the Enterprise QM system – utilize Pacific Ocean Division model for Division, Louisville model for districts.
5. **HH&C Executive Advisory Committee Report – Jim/Larry**

SME – Need POC in each Division

Top 3 initiatives

 - Capable workforce – tech capability
 - Status of guidance documents
 - funding for updates

How do we communicate the needs

Brad to be invited to Executive Advisory Committee – Jerry Webb confirmed 14 December

Update 2001 Bill Branch study on capabilities/expertise

Regional Centers – SWD reorganized into regional centers

 - North Center – Tulsa, Little Rock
 - South Center – Ft. Worth, Galveston

ACE-IT appears to be on cruise control
6. **Workload Sharing/Workload Leveling Discussion**

- a. Omaha District (John Remus) – Currently 49 staff. Good workload, a couple of people short, not clear if the staff has the correct mix for the current workload
 - b. Kansas City District (Allen Tool) – Currently 25-30 staff. Staffing issues are a challenge with the Missouri River Recovery. Strong program, planning projects and FEMA work. WM has a reduced staff and is currently building a big backlog of work, but doesn't have adequate funding to support. Long term involvement of other district staff is important. Hiring quality people is a problem – keep losing potential hires to others. Working on direct hire authority for GS12's. Need to “hire hard, manage easy”
 - c. Seattle District (Dan Katz) – Currently 12 in Hydraulic Design and 12-14 in WM and 2 Coastal Engineers in Design Branch. The only district in NWD without an H&H Branch. Workload matches staffing; filled workload immediately/ Chief Joseph, Howard Hanson. Currently doing work for Baltimore for FEMA Map Mod.
 - d. Walla Walla District (Sean Milligan) – Currently 20 staff total. Water quality moved to hydraulic design. There are a couple of vacancies. Heavy Columbia River Fish Mitigation program workload and a few planning studies. Portland District (Bruce Duffe) – Currently 45 (including 5 in dam safety). Have adequate workload, but missing branch chief for 6-12 months. Hiring behind tech 13 in Hydraulics and coastal engineer. Discussed briefly the Water Management Programmatic Budget process. Ed Zapel will set up a meeting for week of 21 May to discuss levels of service in relation to the budget.
7. Challenges/Opportunities in HH&C by office
- a. NWK – Challenges – updating WCM's, need to tidy up.
 - b. NWW – Challenges – balance the workload across workforce.
Opportunities – Ability to diversify workload to both sections, 1135 restorations. FPMS and WM reorganization
 - c. NWS – Challenges – communicate risk, engineering marginalized.
Opportunities – 33 levee repairs, restoration associated w/levee repair, woody debris as part of levee design.
 - d. NWP – Challenges – WM reorganization and impact on staff.
Opportunities – Sharing information and cross training.
 - e. NOW – Challenges – Filling positions, AAR with no funding, CWMS conversion. Opportunities – very healthy workload with FPMS.
8. Discussion on Regional Technical 13's – ran out of time and didn't discuss.
9. NSPS – lessons learned and SMART objectives – ran out of time and didn't discuss.
10. Next meeting. Next call in January 15th at 11 PST. Next face to face – April/May in Portland/Omaha.